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## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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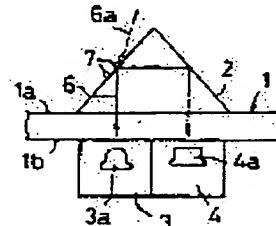
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## (54) WATERDROP DETECTING METHOD

## (57)Abstract:

**PURPOSE:** To surely detect dew condensation and adhesion of waterdrops in the initial stage, by obtaining data by sampling the output signal of a photodetector synchronously to the output signal of a luminous element and detecting dews and waterdrops through the changing rate of the data.

**CONSTITUTION:** The light 6 radiated from the luminous element 3a of a modulating luminous circuit 3 passes through a platy member 1 made of glass, etc., which is used for detecting adhesion of waterdrops and is reflected in a prism 2 which is bonded to the detecting surface 1a of the platy member 1 and has the same refractive index as the platy member 1 has, and then, the light quantity is detected by means of the photodetector 4a of an amplifying photodetecting circuit 4. When dews are condensed on and waterdrops adhere to the outer surface of the prism 2, part of the light 6a comes out to the outside through the water drops 7 and the light quantity received by the photoreceptor element 4a is reduced. By obtaining data by making sampling at the photodetector 4a synchronously to the output signal of the luminous element 3a, the adhesion of waterdrops is decided when the changing rate of the data reaches a prescribed value.



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